

REGISTRAR

DESCRIPTION

The Office of the General Registrar is charged with providing all facets of the electoral process to the citizens of Chesterfield County. This activity includes handling candidate matters as well as voter

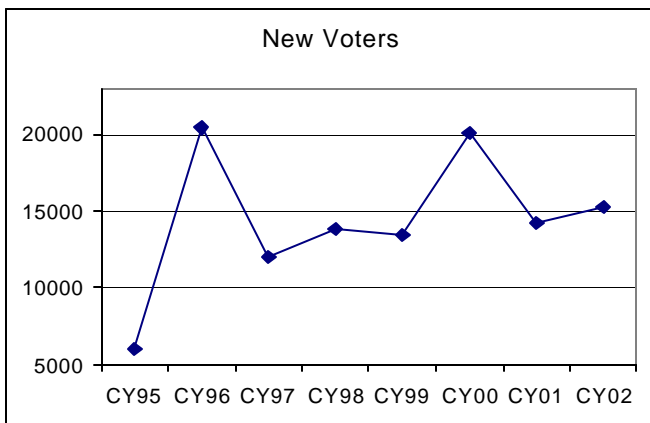
concerns, carrying out the directives of the Chesterfield Electoral Board and the State Board of Elections, and following the requirements of the Code of Virginia as it pertains to election laws.

FINANCIAL ACTIVITY

	FY2002 Actual	FY2003 Adopted	FY2004 Biennial Planned	FY2004 Adopted	Change FY2003 to FY2004	FY2005 Projected	FY2006 Projected	FY2007 Projected
Personnel	\$311,759	\$325,600	\$325,600	\$331,400	1.8%	\$331,400	\$331,400	\$331,400
Operating	249,527	238,300	243,300	243,000	2.0%	243,000	243,000	243,000
Capital	<u>3,967</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	0.0%	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	\$565,253	\$563,900	\$568,900	\$574,400	1.9%	\$574,400	\$574,400	\$574,400
Revenue	<u>81,003</u>	<u>84,000</u>	<u>84,000</u>	<u>69,100</u>	-17.7%	<u>69,100</u>	<u>69,100</u>	<u>69,100</u>
Net Cost	\$484,250	\$479,900	\$484,900	\$505,300	5.3%	\$505,300	\$505,300	\$505,300
FT Pos.	6	6	6	6	0	6	6	6

BUDGET ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

The number of registered voters in Chesterfield County continues to increase. As the county continues to grow and the number of voters increases, so does the challenge of staging elections, identifying polling locations, and coordinating the electoral process in general.



The State Board of Elections reduced its reimbursement to the county for the Registrar's salaries and expenses by seven percent in FY2003 and eight percent in FY2004. This represents a loss of revenue to the county of \$11,900 in FY2004 and has been absorbed by the county. A partial impact of this reduction is manifested in fewer workers at the polling places.

The implementation of the National Voter Registration Act (NVRA also known as "Motor Voter") that went into effect late in FY1996, continues to impact the department's workload. Where the nature of the workload was once seasonal, it has since become constant throughout the year. There also appears to be a pattern of increased workload during the approach of a presidential election, such as in 2004.

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WHERE ARE WE GOING?

Due to the combination of the county's population growth and the permanent impact of the National Voter Registration Act, the Registrar anticipates continued growth in future years. The steady increase in registered voters will continue to impact the funding required by the Registrar's Office to properly locate and staff polling places, provide additional voting machines, and provide for the additional cost of conducting an election.

Following the presidential election in 2000, there has been concern nationwide regarding punch card voting machines such as the ones the county currently uses. The Help America Vote Act (HAVA) has been passed by Congress and signed into law. This act may eventually provide federal funds to upgrade voting equipment. Eventually the county's punch card voting machines will need to be replaced with new machines. The cost to provide these machines (if no federal or state funds become available) would be \$2,020,000.

The state continues to mandate compliance with handicapped accessibility to the polling place. HAVA requires that by 2006 at least one voting machine per precinct must be available for disabled voters. At the current time, the federal government has not allocated the \$310,000 needed to purchase the 65 machines, or one new machine per precinct with spares. While the effort has always been to locate as many polling places in government buildings, which are accessible to the handicapped, this is not always possible. Where there are private sites that do not comply, and in instances where there are no alternative sites, the county may be required to take the necessary measures to bring these sites into minimum handicapped compliance. County funds have not been identified for the replacement of voting machines in either case or for modifications to any polling sites.